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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, No 22, 1949.RURAL AREAS TO GET MORE HOSPITALS

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One of the chief methods whereby the medical service to people living in kolkhozes, sovkhoses and MTSs can be improved is by increased construction of hospitals and medical institutions. However, for one reason or another, this construction program has been lagging. In many cases materials have been made available, but have not been utilized.

The building program in Tadzhik SSR and Kazakh SSR is particularly open to criticism. In 1948 the Ministry of Health RSFSR appropriated money and materials for 122 projects. The results are very unsatisfactory. Nineteen projects started in 1946 are still not completed. Also uncompleted are 60 projects started in 1947 and 30 projects started in 1948.

The 1949 program for the building of rural medical facilities was discussed at a recent meeting of the Ministry of Health RSFSR. The most important item was the establishment of complete medical facilities in each rural community. Every rayon center is to have its own hospital and polyclinic.

It is heartening to note, however, that many of the local health agencies are operating much more efficiently than the central agency. For example, the local health department of Zhitomir Oblast, Ukrainian SSR, has made an excellent showing. Local health and construction agencies in Bryansk Oblast should also be praised. Here personal initiative accomplished the following in 1948: ten hospitals with a total of 414 beds, two ambulatory dispensaries, and three midwife and obstetrical stations. Communal farmers in regions surrounding the oblast center medical establishment have also been active in improving their own medical facilities. They have completed accommodations for

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200 hospital beds, two ambulatory dispensaries, and three midwife and obstetrical stations. Space for an additional 214 hospital beds is 60 - 80 percent completed. The local Party committee for Bryansk has approved a comprehensive construction program for 1949, wherein construction will be accomplished on a cooperative basis. In 1949 the peoples of this oblast intend to complete the various projects still outstanding from 1948 and to build 19 hospitals with a total of 490 beds and 22 midwife and obstetrical stations.

Much of the initiative responsible for the great local construction activity is due to individual doctors and small party organizations. For example, in Karachevsk Rayon Dr Nikol'skaya, a pediatrician, who is primarily responsible for the construction of a 500,000-ruble, 50-bed rayon hospital. In Dyat'kov Rayon, Dr S. M. Anokhin is responsible for the construction of a rayon hospital. The tasks of these loyal Soviet citizens are not without difficulty; for example, Dr Ye. K. Zubkov of Krasnogorod Rayon had to organize special field trips to obtain 250 cubic meters of wood from a stand of lumber 150 kilometers away.

The cooperative building plan is gaining more followers everyday. It is a heart-warming display of national spirit, but it certainly puts responsible agencies in a bad light.

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